

PLAYERS QUESTION ONE THAT SHOULD BE SETTLED

Ban Johnson Calls for Baseball Magnates to Meet in Cincinnati on Friday.

Manager Hanlon Not Worried Over Keeler—Gotham Scribes Amuse Fans.

Things baseball are sky-high just at present, and it would require more than one airship to round them up. Just who is on the level in this present controversy it would be hard to say—were one to listen to the many contradictory stories afloat. Both sides are crying "thief" to some extent, but none more than those who continually see behind any movement of the National League some ulterior motive or scheme to relieve everybody of their pocketbooks and go it alone.

It does seem that there should be a better understanding of things. There are men today in the ranks of the major organization who have not been square in the past, but they are not now in the majority. Criticism by the press and the loss of public patronage has worked against them until they can only rally a party whose strength lies in vain protests. New blood has been injected into the National League and it is with this that the American shouldicker.

It's only reasonable to suppose that sensible men can get together on some common ground. If the rivals cannot agree on circuits or the placing of clubs let them settle the players question and put the "grasshoppers" where they belong. Men who violate a contract have no place in baseball and the sooner they are made to feel the sting of exile the better it will be for all concerned.

It certainly would not be hard for the magnates to get together and agree upon some plan that would make it a hazardous proposition for a player to violate an agreement to which he had solemnly pledged his word. Above all, Mr. Magnates, settle this question—then fight out the other if you want—even if it takes a decade. But punish contract jumpers.

Perhaps the most amusing thing to the initiated in the world of sports is the way certain newspaper writers in Gotham flounder about in their efforts to correctly gauge a position or to score a beat. They will go to any old extreme in an effort to convince the public that they, and they alone, are next to everything going on, while it has ever proven the reverse. There are certain scribes who write more and say less on the issue of Manhattan than in any city of any baseball circuit.

Their specialty at present seems to be to discover ball grounds overnight. If there's a spot that has not been claimed by the scribes as certain to be chosen as the site for American League exhibitions, it would take more than the Metropolitan police force to find it out. Every available bit of space has been written up by the scribes until there is not room enough for a man to jump were he called upon.

It's seldom they are right on anything, and not until it appears in print in a paper of another city do these scribes again fall over themselves and discover for the thirty-third time that again have they hit it right—they knew it all along.

Really, it would be amusing were it not ridiculous.

Manager Hanlon is one who does not seem to worry these days over things in the baseball world. He is one of those who do and talk afterward. That has been Hanlon's policy, and those who have stacked up against him learned it to their sorrow.

Hanlon, in speaking of Keeler going with the New York Americans, said that he was not worrying over the little fellow, that he had a contract with him which contained an option clause for 1903. He said he has plenty of players and would be able to fill every position on the diamond over again with good, capable men, and he can do it.

Ban Johnson now intimates that the peace conference has not been broken off altogether. He places the blame at Hart's door. Johnson replied to Gary Hermann's letter, but refuses to make its nature public.

It was learned late tonight that Johnson, in this letter, asked for a meeting on Friday, in which amicable schemes should be cut out, and the efforts be confined to an adjustment of the various claims for players, and the consideration of contract-jumpers. Hermann's reply to Johnson is expected to arrive tomorrow, and if satisfactory, the formal call for the Friday meeting will be issued at once.

Johnson said he did not know whether the American League would be benefited by the peace conference, but he hoped to put a stop to contract jumping.

The other side says that Johnson was given the right to name the place of meeting, and date, and that they must await his word.

The worst case of sour grapes that has come to light lately is Frank Erne. The former lightweight champion on his return from the coast, after being beaten by Jimmy Britt, gave it out that in his opinion Joe Gans would prove easy for the Californian. The Buffalo lad then refrained from saying anything about himself.

Now comes Frank Zimpher, who was in charge of Erne while on his Western trip. Zimpher declares that there was nothing to it while Erne's hands were good, and that had they not gone back on him he would have dropped his opponent.

"As it was," continues Zimpher, "Erne knocked him about as he pleased in the first five rounds. He boxed him off his feet time and again, and really made a laughing stock of Britt."

dispose of Gans. He is described as one of those of the rushing school, who never knew when they are licked, and keep after a man all the time. It's this kind of man Erne says can trim Gans. Such twaddle is given place by Buffalo writers who have never gotten over the rapid-transit trick turned by the Baltimorean, when in a little over a minute he knocked Erne flat. Erne was no more a match for the present champion than Britt would be, if all that Zimpher says about him is true. Erne proved a much easier proposition for Gans than he did for Britt—why, then, should Britt be held by Erne as too superior man. He did give Britt a fight, while Gans played with him.

"Kid McCoy" is back in the boxing game and this time he seems to be in earnest. He reached Indianapolis yesterday from Lick Springs, so reads a dispatch, and appeared in good shape. The "Kid" said he was on the water wagon and that nothing could tempt him off.

The Hoosier lad, then, whom there have been few cleverer in the roped arena, gives it out as his determination to make a killing this year. He declares that before he quits he will have gathered in \$25,000.

He believes he is as clever with the gloves as ever, and wants to prove to the sporting world that he is a top-notch. That luck will go with the "Kid" will be wished him by many. If he can get into anything like his old shape there are those who travel principally on their nerve nowadays that would be hunting for a live occupation. He is not on the trail of Jack Munroe.

McCoy's entry into the game calls attention to another scare thrown out by the sporting scribes of Gotham. They have devoted unlimited space to write up of Jack Munroe and "Mexican Pete" as anxious to tackle Jeffries. Their pictures accompany the reviews and the public is tipped off that now a new champion is in sight.

As a matter of fact, every Tom-Jack of them must know that Jeffries can go right through the pair in the same night. George Gardner is about and anxious for a fight. Why not have "Mexican Pete" and the Montana miner fix it up to meet the Lowell lad, or put "Mexican Pete" and Jack Munroe in the same ring. There's a fight for your money. Let Jeffries alone. The public has been sickened with fakes and is not anxious to have another one brought off, as it must be if Munroe or Everett are sent against the champion.

Don't encourage the fake game in boxing—it's bad enough.

A good staff of umpires is assured by President Ban Johnson for the American League, and that means fast games and an absence of unnecessary kicking. Last year, despite the fact that the batters of the National League had to go to the plate under the foul strike rule, the American League games were faster and snappier than those of the National League, and with the plan to have a corps of excellent umpires, the standard of the past two years will be maintained.

The umpires so far settled upon are O'Doughlin, who will head the staff. O'Day, for several years the National League; Hassett, who did excellent work with the New England League; and Thomas Connolly. There is some talk to the effect that the American League will adopt the double umpire system, and in that event all of last year's staff will retain their places. The change would help the sport materially, but the great expense is an obstacle.

One great objection to the double umpire system is in the fact that the responsibility is divided.

The players, however, claim that with two men officiating there is no chance to go wrong on a close decision, and that the umpire is enabled to get to the spot where the play is, and that he can watch the men on bases better. With two umpires, one would be obliged to go behind the bat, as that is the only way balls and strikes can be called off properly.

REFEREE GAVE BENNIE YANGER THE DECISION

CHICAGO, Jan. 6.—After Tim Callahan had made Bennie Yanger look like a novice in each of six rounds here last night, Referee Ben Donnelly perpetrated another Wyatt Earp jolt by declaring Yanger the winner "on points."

As a matter of fact, the Philadelphia-made Yanger look like a raw hand at the boxing game. He hit him wherever and whenever he wanted. At the end of the fourth round he had the local boy blind and staggering aimlessly and helplessly about the ring. Not one clean punch was landed by Yanger throughout the whole six rounds. Jack Root was one of Callahan's seconds, and after the fight Lou Houseman, Root's manager, stated that under no conditions would he (Houseman) agree that Donnelly should referee the projected fight between Gardner and Root.

CARROLL INSTITUTE WINS FROM ORDWAY RIFLES

The Ordway Rifles basketball team suffered another crushing defeat at the hands of the shifty Carroll Institute team last night. The game was played in the National Guard gymnasium, and a big crowd of Ordway rooters saw their proteges defeated by the score of 19-3. Cullen played a good game, and bagged the leather seven times. "Stogy" Thompson also put up a splendid game and besides doing great defensive work scored two goals.

The line-up:
Carrolls. Positions. Ordways.
Thompson.....right forward.....Barker
Hollander.....left forward.....Daley
Cullen.....center.....Chase
Covley.....right back.....Giovanna
Kort.....left back.....Beckman
Referee—Mr. Handiboe. Umpires—Messrs. Chieh and Guista. Field goals—Thompson, 2; Cullen, 7. Free throws—Thompson, 1; Barker, 2; Chase, 1.
Tomorrow evening the Corcoran Cadets will play the Y. M. C. A. team in the National Guard gymnasium and dancing will follow.

WINNING OWNERS ON NEW ORLEANS TRACK

Firm of Durnell & Herz in Lead, With \$10,180.

GANNON HEADS THE JOCKEYS

Buchanan in Third Position With Redfern Holding Down Fifth Place. O'Connor Is Off in Work.

Durnell & Herz lead the winning owners at the New Orleans tracks for the present meeting. They have now passed the \$10,000 mark. This is an average of about \$2,000 a week.

Twenty-two owners have won over \$1,000. They are:

Durnell & Herz	\$10,180
A. Sinauer	6,112
James Arthur	6,063
M. H. Wickham & Co.	5,555
Mrs. M. Goldblatt	3,727
S. C. Hildreth	3,588
John W. Schorr	3,254
Hart Bernham	2,815
Mrs. C. E. Durnell	2,183
E. Trotter & Co.	2,150
Hartfield & Owbay	1,982
V. Hughes & Co.	1,894
W. H. Pizer & Co.	1,835
C. A. Johnson & Co.	1,857
H. C. Schulz	1,823
R. W. Oxnard	1,570
R. W. Valden & Sons	1,494
B. Schneider	1,423
R. M. Westfield	1,350
P. M. Dick	1,250
H. Robinson	1,275
H. I. Saxton	1,224

Gannon, so far, is the premier jockey at the New Orleans track. Following is the list of winning riders:

Names	Wins	Sds.	Tds.	Unp.
Gannon	12	12	12	20
Helgeisen	20	16	17	20
Buchanan	19	16	9	20
Fuller	17	14	16	52
Redfern	12	4	5	15
W. Hicks	10	11	4	20
Robbins	7	12	4	10
Scully	5	2	18	46
Munroe	5	0	2	13
Ohio	4	8	7	21
W. O'Connor	4	7	5	7
Rice	4	4	3	8
Follock	4	4	1	15
H. Booker	3	7	5	25
Treanor	3	6	4	17
Donnegan	3	6	1	15
Hack	2	5	4	17
D. Gilmore	2	4	1	10
O'Neill	2	3	4	10
Faureley	2	3	0	22
R. Williams	2	2	1	6
Phillips	2	2	1	6
Davidson	2	2	1	10
Landry	2	1	2	12
McIntyre	2	1	0	2
Robertson	2	0	0	2
Donley	1	4	2	10
Cogswell	1	3	1	16
Wauha	1	3	2	10
Fitzgerald	1	2	0	11
McCafferty	1	1	3	12
Prine	1	1	2	3
J. Winkfield	1	1	1	3
Walsh	1	1	0	4
Battiste	1	1	0	9
Wishard	1	1	0	10
Graham	1	0	2	6
Fisher	1	0	2	6
Head	1	0	1	5
W. Mead	1	0	1	7
R. Murphy	1	0	1	4
Wickline	1	0	0	1
Morper	1	0	0	2

Sandy McNaughton is the latest member of the Royal Order of Boosters—the name given to the men who bid up horses in selling races. He recently bid up Fitzmillar from \$400 to \$2,500 with one offer.

"Dow" Williams, who was mixed up in the "Little Pete" racing scandals of the San Francisco tracks seven years ago, but who was recently reinstated, is training the fourteen head of thoroughbreds owned by "Lucky" Baldwin at the Oakland track.

During the racing season just closed, 1,516 races were won on the various tracks throughout the United States by two-year-old colts, geldings, and fillies. The stallion Lamplighter led all the sires in the matter of producing winners. He had sixteen to his credit that won fifty-eight races. Ornament begot twelve winners that won twenty-nine races. Escher (dead) had eleven winners on the list, they secured first money twenty-one times.

At the annual meeting of the stockholders of the Coney Island Jockey Club held yesterday, the following board of governors were re-elected for the year 1903: J. Harry Alexander, James Gordon Bennett, J. H. Bradford, John H. Heckscher, Thomas Hitchcock, J. Jr. H. B. Hollins, C. H. Korner, H. K. Knapp, A. Newbold Morris, Herbert C. Pell, Schuyler L. Parsons, F. Aug. Sherman, James P. Scott, Thomas P. Smith, F. K. Sturgis, William H. Taylor, William K. Vanderbilt, J. W. Walsworth, George Peabody Wetmore, William C. Whitney.

The Western Jockey Club last night decided that Jockey Fuller, whose services were claimed by both Archie Zimmerman and J. O. Keene, belonged to the former.

CRACK PACER DAN PATCH REACHES MINNEAPOLIS

NEW YORK, Jan. 6.—Dan Patch, 1:59½, the famous pacer, who has been established at Kansas City for the past two months, has been shipped to the stables of his new owner, R. C. Savage, in Minneapolis. Mr. Savage purchased the great stallion from M. E. Sturgess several weeks ago for \$60,000, the highest price ever paid for a pacer horse. Patch has received the best of care in Kansas City and is said to be in better shape than he has been in some time.

Upon his arrival in Minneapolis, Patch will be put in the stud. Starting June 1 he will be taken on a summer's campaign among the larger tracks of the country races, but his efforts will be confined to trials against time and exhibition miles.

TO BE \$10,000 A YEAR Largest Sum Ever Paid to a Ball Player—Signs Two-Year Contract.

NEW YORK, Jan. 6.—Willie Keeler, the National League's brightest star, who has signed a two-year contract to play with the New York American League team, will get \$10,000 a year, the largest salary ever paid to a ball player. But this is not all. By the terms of the contract Keeler is absolved from all fines and suspension, and is to draw his stipend regularly on the 1st and 15th of each month during the playing season, even should he be unable to play.

Keeler returned from California on Saturday, and in speaking of his American League contract said that it calls for more money than he ever expects to command again for playing ball. Yesterday it was learned that the contract stipulates the payment of \$10,000 in equal semi-monthly installments during the playing season. Hence, if the American League schedule calls for the usual number of games—140—next season Keeler will receive about \$71.50 for each game.

At the close of the playing season of 1902 Keeler promised Hanlon that he should have the first chance to sign him for 1903, but it appears that Hanlon, after having all the time Keeler thought necessary, did not take advantage of the opportunity.

Ban Johnson promptly offered Keeler \$10,000 a year salary, and a contract based on any time he might suggest. In less than fifteen minutes the document was drawn, and Keeler placed his signature to it.

THE FAT MEN WIN FROM BALTIMOREANS

Last night a bowling quint from Baltimore was the guest of the Jolly Fat Men. The Baltimoreans won the first game of the set by thirty pins, and it looked as if they would quit winner, but the Fat Men struck their zait in the last two games and came out victorious. After play refreshments were served in the banquet hall.

Rosell, of the visiting team, was high man, with 432 average, while Rodrick's single of 196 was the highest.

The scores.				
Fat. Men.	1st.	2d.	3d.	Total
Harlow	174	149	104	427
Garrett	135	169	167	472
Rodrick	152	194	195	541
Ludwig	168	179	183	530
Brown	161	180	180	521
Totals	790	862	835	2,487
Baltimore.				
	1st.	2d.	3d.	Total
Ramsay	155	185	158	498
Bradley	171	149	163	483
Beveans	156	147	172	475
Cross	153	169	142	464
Rosell	185	188	172	545
Totals	820	828	809	2,457

CENSUS BOWLERS LOSE TO BUREAU TEAM

The bureau team, leaders of the Departmental League, clinched their hold on first place last night by winning three games from the Census five on the Palace alleys. The bowling was high. Five men made scores over the 200 mark.

Hardie was high man, with 263 average, and his 257 was high single. Helmerichs was second high average man, with 196, and Schreiner's 226 single was second best.

The scores:				
	1st.	2nd.	3d.	T. I.
Bureau	169	225	194	588
Helmerichs	179	155	177	511
Hess	169	155	177	511
Lord	190	152	171	513
Hardie	192	257	161	610
Land	211	159	189	559
Totals	941	948	892	2,781
Census.				
	1st.	2nd.	3d.	T. I.
Schreiner	162	226	147	535
Devor	144	125	151	420
Urban	119	178	183	480
Nelson	212	145	148	505
Williams	181	157	148	486
Totals	818	831	777	2,426

ELEVENTH STREETS WIN FROM THE MECHANICS

In the Railway Relief Association League last night the Eleventh Street team won the fall set from the Mechanics.

Johnson, of the Eleventh Streets, was high man with an average of 174, and his 209 was high single. The scores:

209 was high single.		The scores;		
Eleventh St.	1st.	2d.	3d.	Total.
Reich	133	175	190	598
Ballinger	174	162	166	502
Sheets	119	112	151	382
Johnson	209	190	123	522
Speer	150	150	165	465
Totals		799	779	795
2364				
Mechanics.	1st.	2d.	3d.	Total.
Horning	155	155	132	442
Phillips	138	158	171	467
Wenner	153	141	138	432
Wilson	189	129	121	439
Green	167	121	189	477
Totals		764	704	756
2224				

TOMMY ATKINS A JAM EATER.

Now that we know that the British army consumed in the South African war 34,500,000 pounds of jam, the fact suggests some nice computations in the statistics of sweetmeats. For instance, if the British army, in order to crush a comparatively small provincial state that began the war without an army, needed to be sustained by over 34,500,000 pounds of jam, what quantity of jam would be necessary for it if it had a real war with some great military state? Would there be jam enough in the world to meet such a crisis? And what would become of the finances of the British empire if in such a case some of the Chicago men should "corner" all the jam in the world just before the war began?—Harper's Weekly.

AGED TWINS.

Clash S. Haskell, of New Gloucester, Me., and his twin sister, Mrs. Judith Bradbury, are believed to be the oldest twins in the United States. They have turned eighty-eight years, and are still hale and hearty. Mr. Haskell is one of a family of nine children, who lived to grow up and have families of their own. They all lived to turn eighty years of age, save one, and he died as the result of an accident, one daughter is still living at the age of ninety years. The father of this family died at the age of ninety. Other old twins are Jeremiah Haselton, of Franklin, Pa., and his sister, Mrs. Hanna Haselton Southwick, of Fairbuck, R. I., who are eighty-seven years old. "Hedley's Weekly" pictured these old people, and it appeared that the twin habit had been handed along down, for two of Mr. Haselton's grandchildren are twins.—New York World.

LIPTON'S OLD SHAMROCK BADLY IN NEED OF REPAIRS

Much Work Will be Required to Fix Yaht Up as a Trial Boat.

NEW YORK, Jan. 6.—In good time orders will be received, it is supposed, for the launching of the Shamrock II in Brooklyn, where the yacht has been since November, 1901. When overboard, there will be considerable to do to put her in the condition she should be in to become a satisfactory trial boat for the Shamrock III.

She will require strengthening in the first place, and that job will take time. She also needs attention otherwise. When the hull has been looked after, there will be lots of fittings to provide. As is well known, the building in which her sails, running rigging, etc., were stored was burned.

The old boat has been further "stripped," so to speak, and a White Star steamer has taken to the other side, addressed to Messrs. Denny Bros., Dunbarton, Scotland, where the new challenger is building, several things that are needed when a racing yacht is ready for battle. The most important of these are her light spars and considerable iron work. It is not really known for what purpose the spars are needed on the other side, but they may be intended as a duplicate set for the new boat, and possibly will be returned in time to be used by the old craft.

Then her anchors, chains and shackles were sent, and also the small boats and her towing gear. The latter will be serviceable when the challenger is brought over, while the other articles of equipment may be desired on the ground of economy. Shamrock II, from the present point of view, will certainly require a great deal of work to make her a suitable trial boat for Shamrock III.

McGRAW TO HAVE NEAT UNIFORM FOR THE GIANTS

Secretary Knowles sent out yesterday twenty-one measurement blanks to the players of the New York club, with instructions to fill them out for their new uniforms.

The uniforms this year will be a light Yale gray, with black stockings, caps and trimmings for the traveling suits, and white, with black stockings, caps and trimmings for home use. The old brown trimmings of last year have been discarded.

BASEBALL FOR VIRGINIA.

RICHMOND, Va., Jan. 5.—It now seems assured that Virginia is to have professional baseball next summer, and that the old State League is to be organized. The circuit will probably include Richmond, Norfolk, Newport News, Petersburg, Lynchburg, and Roanoke. If the circuit is to be eight clubs Alexandria and Danville are contemplated. W. B. Bradley, who managed the club so successfully here several years ago, will have charge of the local end of the league.

FIGHT PLEASED THE SHERIFF.

Sheriff Barrett, of Cook county, Ill., who saw the Gardner-Carter fight in Chicago, has this to say about the encounter: "It was one of the most interesting of the many ring encounters I ever saw. Two well-trained men contested. To men who are in fine physical condition, scientific and clever, the little blood that comes from the mouth or nose is nothing. If all ring contests are like that battle between Gardner and Carter I will not take any hand in stopping them. Carter is game, but Gardner is his superior in boxing."

ANXIOUS TO BOWL.

The George A. Fuller Company, of Baltimore, have organized a bowling team and would like to hear from those desiring games in